

# Pairs to Plenty: COASST's Monitoring and Partnering Patterns

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## **Abstract**

COASST (Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team) is a citizen-science program partnering local residents, scientists, and natural resource managers through collection and use of information on beached birds throughout the coastal Pacific Northwest. The principal goals of COASST are: (1) development of a high-quality baseline against which change in nearshore environmental health, as exemplified by marine birds, can be assessed, and (2) hands-on marine biology education of coastal citizens. Within our program we've created a wide network (>150 volunteers monitor at least monthly throughout Washington and Oregon) of citizen stewards - active participants in coastal marine resource management and protection. Beyond these stewards, we've also built strong alliances with other like-minded agencies and NGO's in the US and Canada. For example, we've helped to establish comparable new beached bird programs in BC and eastern Canada with Bird Studies Canada and the Canadian Wildlife Service. In this talk we will discuss our ongoing successes in gaining new pairs of volunteers, our partnerships with other organizations, and our discoveries in environmental monitoring in the Pacific Northwest. For further information, please visit [www.coast.org](http://www.coast.org).